

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSPST:CJ

APPROVED BY AF:DBOLEN

PC:FHANSON

S/S - PSEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309213

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PFOR ET US

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF PEACE CORPS: AMBASSADOR GODLEY

REF:A)ADDIS ABABA 12430; B) ADDIS 12473

1. A SEPARATE PEACE CORPS MESSAGE CONTAINS INSTRUCTIONS FOR PCD BIGELOW TO INFORM HIS NORMAL CONTACTS ABOUT HIS DEPARTURE AND THE SECURITY AND CULTURAL REASONS FOR THE PCW DECISION LAST JULY NOT TO RECRUIT PCV'S TO REPLACE THOSE TERMINATING. IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF EMBASSY NOTIFICATION TO THE EPMG OF THE PCV WITHDRAWAL (REF A) WE HAVE NOW DECIDED TO LEAVE ANY US-INITIATED NOTIFICATION TO BIGELOW. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT, THEREFORE, CARRY OUT PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS FOR A FORMAL NOTE AND DEMARCHE ON THE SUBJECT.

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2. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT BIGELOW NOTIFICATION WILL STIMULATE QUESTIONS TO EM9OFFS FROM THEIR CONTACTS. EMB-OFFS SO QUERIED SHOULD REPEAT THE FORMULATION PROVIDED SEPTEL FOR BIGELOW, STRESSING THAT PRESENT SITUATION OF PC/E STEMS FROM A PCW DECISION TAKEN LAST JULY, THAT PC REMAINS ANXIOUS TO INTRODUCE NEW PCV'S WHEN CONDITIONS

PERMIT, AND THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT IN NO WAY ALTERS THE
DETERMINATION OF THE USG TO WORK FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS

BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. EMBOFFS SHOULD EMPHASIZE
THAT PCW DECISION WAS TAKEN WELL BEFORE ALLEGATIONS WERE
MADE PUBLICLY ABOUT CIA INVOLVEMENT WITH DISSIDENT ELE-
MENTS. POINT SHOULD THEN BE MADE THAT SUCH UNFOUNDED
ALLEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY WHEN MADE BY PERSONS IN
AUTHORITY, CAN BE INTERPRETED BY IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS
AS A LICENSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS AND THAT
THIS CANNOT HELP BUT INCREASE OUR CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY
OF ALL AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA, INCLUDING PCV'S. EMBOFFS
SHOULD NOTE THAT SUCH ACCUSATIONS AGAINST AMERICANS RE-
INFORCE THE VIEW THAT THE CLIMATE IN ETHIOPIA AT PRESENT
DOES NOT PERMIT THE KIND OF CULTURAL INTERCHANGE WHICH IS
A PRIMARY PEACE CORPS OBJECTIVE. IF POINT RAISED THAT
OTHER COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS REMAIN, REBUTTAL SHOULD BE MADE
THAT THOSE REMAINING ARE NOT NATIONALS OF A COUNTRY SO
ACCUSED AND OTHERWISE CRITICIZED IN, FOR EXAMPLE,
ETHIOPIAN PRESS. IF GODLEY ISSUE IS RAISED, THE JULY DATE
OF THE PCW DECISION SHOULD BE REITERATED AND THE ADDI-
TIONAL POINT REGISTERED OF REGRET THAT THE EPMG HAS PRE-
VENTED THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN OUTSTANDING US AMBASSADOR
EQUIPPED AS FEW ARE TO TURN AROUND THE PRESENT DECLINE IN
THE US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONSHIP.

3. SEPARATE PC MESSAGE DEALS WITH MATTER RAISED REF B.

ROBINSON

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